

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SANTO 02734 202042Z
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00
NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 HA-05 TRSE-00 AID-05 PC-01
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O 202005Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 4628
AMEMBASSY CARACAS NIACT IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LISBON IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY MADRID IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY PORT AU PRINCE IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE IMMEDIATE
USCINCSO QUARRY HEIGHTS CZ

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTO DOMINGO 2734

CARACAS FOR ROBERT PASTOR, NSC

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, PEPER, PINS, DR
SUBJECT: PENA GOMEZ PRESS INTERVIEW

1. PRD SEC GEN JOSE FRANCISCO PENA GOMEZ, OUT OF SIGHT IN PRD
SAFEHOUSE SINCE BEFORE ELECTION, MET AT ANOTHER SITE TODAY WITH
SELECTED PRESS REPS TO GIVE HIS VIEWS ON CURRENT SITUATION.
US NEWSMAN, SOUGHT OUT AND TAKEN TO MEET PENA. HE LATER FILLED
IN EMBOFF WITH DETAILS.

2. PENA, THE ACKNOWLEDGED SPARKPLUG AND
SPIRITUAL LEADER OF THE PRD, COULD NOT HAVE BEEN MORE
LAUDATORY OF ROLE PALYED BY USG. HE EXPRESSED STRONG APPRECIATION
FOR PRESIDENT CARTER'S ASSERTION OF HIS PERSONAL SUPPORT FOR THE
DOMINICAN PEOPLE AND THEIR STRUGGLE TO FREELY CHOOSE THOSE WHO
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PAGE 02 SANTO 02734 202042Z

WILL GOVERN HERE. IT IS SIGNIFICANT, PENA SAID, THAT THE AMERICAN
PRESIDENT DID NOT HESITATE TO TAKE A VIGOROUS STAND IN
OPPOSITION TO THE FORCES OF REACTION WHICH THREATENED TO
FRUSTRATE THE EXERCISE OF THE FREE WILL OF THE DOMINICAN ELECTORATE.

3. PENA REFERRED TO THE MANY DIFFERENCES HE AND THE PRD HAVE
HAD WITH WASHINGTON OVER THE 15-YEAR PERIOD THE PARTY HAS

FOUGHT TO GAIN POWER VIA THE BALLOT BOX. THE FACT THAT PRESIDENT CARTER ACTED AS HE DID, SAID PENA, BODES WELL FOR FUTURE US-DOMINICAN RELATIONSHIPS.

4. THE PRD LEADER WARNED, HOWEVER, THAT WHILE GUZMAN HAS BEEN ELECTED, THE PARTY FACES A REAL STRUGGLE TO INSURE HE IS IN FACT INAUGURATED AND ALLOWED TO GOVERN. "THE GENERALS WON'T GIVE UP EASILY," HE SAID.

5. THE DELICATELY BALANCED SITUATION HERE COULD; HAVE DONE WITHOUT THIS BRIEF SURFACING OF PENA, WHO APPARENTLY IS BACK IN HIS SAFEHOUSE. "THE GENERALS" AT THIS MOMENT ARE SAID TO BE MEETING AT ARMED FORCES SECRETARIAT CONTEMPLATING THEIR NEXT MOVE, IF ANY. IN THEIR PRESENT FRAME OF MIND, WHICH WE MUST SUPPOSE IS AGITATED, PENA'S LATEST PUBLIC STATMENTS ARE UNHELPFUL. THIS IS PARTICULARLY TRUE OF PENA'S REMARK, IN ANSWER TO A QUESTION ABOUT FUTURE DOMINICAN-CUBAN RELATIONS, THAT HE ASSUMED THE GUZMAN ADMINISTRATION WOULD DECIDE TO RE-ESTABLISH DIPLOMATIC TIES WITH HAVANA.
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TAGS: PINT, PEPR, PINS, SOPN, DR, PRD, (PENA GOMEZ, JOSE FRANCISCO)
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